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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>29 July 2010</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-66</u> is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-66</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim status

1.   This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on 07/29/10, wherein

Claims 1-66 are currently pending;

Claims 1-2, 29, 47, 51, 60 have been amended;

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 51-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

CHRISTIAN ET AL (US 6,854,010) in view of KOWAL ET AL (US 2004/0158536).

As for independent claim 51, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses a centralized

computer system for managing pricing/rating and booking of facilities of geographically

distributed business entities of a hospitality organization {see at least figurers 1-2, 5-7;

col. 15, lines 45-55}, the centralized computer system comprising:

a) a processor;

{see at least figures 1-2 and 4; at least col. 2, lines 6-16};

b) memory means comprising a centralized inventory system, the centralized inventory system configured for maintaining a single back end repository of pricing and availability data relating to the facilities;

see figures 1-2, 4 and 6; abstract; col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 50-64; col. 15, lines 45-55 discloses *booking* and *rating* information from location level services across multiple properties (business entities and their associated facilities) are stored in *a central database 45* (a single back end repository) over a wide area network};

c) an application server in communication with the centralized inventory system over a network, the application server being accessible over the network by the centralized inventory system for booking the facility; and

{see at least figures 2, 4 and 6; abstract; col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 50-64; col. 14, lines 25-35 discloses the central application services 48 share and exchange data with the central database 45 on the *central server 40* };

d) a display screen linked to a single central interface in communication over a network with the centralized inventory system, the application server and at least one external system, the network configured for supporting communication between the centralized inventory system, the application server, and the least one external system.

{see at least figure 6; at least col. 10, lines 40-51; col. 13, lines 50-67 discloses *central server 40* includes *a central database 45* and a variety of *central application services 48* accessible to users via a *thin client user interface on user station 25;*

col. 13, lines 50-67 and figures 2 and 4 discloses the communication between *central application services* 48 (application server), *central universal database 45*

(centralized inventory system) and (*property management system "PMS" 80*) (external

system)}.

CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the claimed invention above <u>except for</u> an

allocation logic module configured for calculation and optimization of rates for

reservation proposals using revenue management system rules (part of step b).

In the similar method and system for making a reservation using a computer

system, KOWAL ET AL discloses a reservation management system uses the control

segment to determine possible room rates that might be offered to the customer based

on his control segment {par. 0019, figures 15-16}. A module optimizer 103 generates a

price recommendation in response to a resource (e.g. hotel services) request for a

particular customer or customer segment {at least pars. 0059, 0061, 0064-0074 figures

1-2B}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL to an optimizer module to

generate a price recommendation to the customer in response to customer request as

taught by KOWA ET AL in order for the revenue management system maximize the

total revenue and optimally allocate resources. {see KOWA ET AL pars 0061, 0109,

0112}.

As for claim 52, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses wherein the data associated with

pricing and booking of the facilities comprises real-time data {see col. 12 lines 64-67;

col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67}.

As for claim 53, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses wherein the external system comprises a system operated by a customer entity {see figure 1, consumer 40 and agent 35}.

As for claims 54-58, which deals with the external system, comprises a system operated by one of the plurality of business entities of the hospitality organization, a property management system, and a sales support system, a revenue management system, and a global distribution system (GDS). This is taught in CHRISTIAN ET AL {see figures 2, 4-5}.

As for claim 59, GEOGHEGAN ET AL discloses wherein the facilities comprise properties of a hotel chain {see figures 2 and 4}.

4.   Claims 1-28; 29-46; 47-50; 60-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CHRISTIAN ET AL (US 6,854,010) in view of PATULLO ET AL. (US 2005/0033613) and further in view of KOWAL ET AL (US 20040158536).

As for independent claim 1, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses method for managing a hospitality organization having geographically distributed business entities providing one or more respective facilities, wherein arrangements with respect to use of the facilities provided by the business entities are made via one or more of a plurality of channels {see figures 2, 4 and 6; col. 3, lines 21-38}, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining by the computer a centralized inventory system for the business entities and their respective associated facilities, wherein the centralized inventory

system is configured as a single back end repository pricing and booking data relating to the facilities of any of the business entities;

{see figures at least figures 1-2, 4 and 6-7; abstract; col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-64; and col. 15, lines 45-55 discloses the *booking* and *rating* information from location level services across multiple properties (business entities and their associated facilities) are stored in *a central database 45* (a single back end repository) over a wide area network};

(b) receiving via at least one of the plurality of channels a request for reservation/booking information associated with at least one of the facilities of at least one of the business entities, the request received from a user via a central interface

{see figures 1-2, 4, 6; col. 10, lines 40-59; col. 12, lines, 57-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; col. 50-67; col. 14, lines 45-64 discloses the user access to the central application server 48 for making the booking, e.g. the *interface engine 115, central application services 48 (*central interface) *that enables a multiple location operator to manage and accept (*receive) *the reservation*s for any property participating in the system. *A user at the call center will access the call center application 70 to receive real time data, such as room availability from the central database*};

(c) generating reservation using a computer based on data residing in the single centralized inventory system (central database) {see figures 2,4-5; col. 13, lines 1-29; and lines 50- 64 discloses the reservation system e.g. "*when the reservation is placed, the central database 45 is immediately updated to provide current property room availability data*};

(d) transmitting reservation information base on receiving a request

{see at least figures 2, 6; col.14, lines 40-52 discloses "a user/reservationists at the all center can access the central server 40 through a browser and *receive current, real time data and room availability with respect to any property*}.

CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the claimed invention above <u>except for</u> the feature generating and transmitting "pricing proposal /quote" to the user during the request (part of steps (b), (c) and (d));

In the similar system and method for making a reservation using a computer system, PATULLO ET AL discloses receiving a price request from a user for a travel reservation, generating the price quote and display/transmitting the price quote to the user {see at least figures 1-2 and 5; pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL to include generating and displaying the price/quote/rate to the user when making a reservation as taught by PATULLO ET AL in order to improve the customer satisfaction by providing the user/customer an opportunity to decide whether the price/rate is suitable for customer before confirming the reservation.

CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the claimed invention above. However, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL does not explicitly discloses an allocation logic module configured for calculation and optimization of rates for reservation proposals using revenue management system rules (part of step b).

In the similar method and system for making a reservation using a computer system, KOWAL ET AL discloses a reservation management system uses the control segment to determine possible room rates that might be offered to the customer based on his control segment {par. 0019, figures 15-16}. A module optimizer 103 generates a price recommendation in response to a resource (e.g. hotel services) request for a particular customer or customer segment {at least pars. 0059, 0061, 0064-0074 figures 1-2B}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL to an optimizer module to generate a price recommendation to the customer in response to customer request as taught by KOWA ET AL in order for the revenue management system maximize the total revenue and optimally allocate resources. {see KOWA ET AL pars 0061, 0109, 0112}.

As for claim 2, which deals with the quote generating using the data from the central inventory system, this is taught in CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL

{see CHRISTIAN ET AL, figure 6; col. 13, lines 50-64; col. 15, lines 45-55 disclose "rating information is stored in central database 45/central inventory system} and see { PATULLO ET AL, figures 1-2 and 5 at least pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031 for generating the quote/price/rate}.

As for claim 3, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose wherein the request for the pricing proposal/quote is received directly from a customer, {see PATULLO ET AL figure 1}.

As for claims 4-5, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the requesting and transmitting the quote/pricing proposal to the user, e.g. staff member, see PATULLO ET AL {figure 1, par.0023}

As for claims 6-8, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the quote, is generated in real time and using real-time data residing in the centralized inventory system. See CHRISTIAN ET AL col.13 lines 50-67; and see PATULLO ET AL, par. 0034.

As for claim 9, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the channel via which the quote, once generated, is transmitted in response to the request {see PATULLO ET AL, figures 1-2;4-5}

As for claim 10, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose receiving an acceptance of the quote and provisionally allocating the at least one facility to which the quote relates {see PATULLO ET AL; figures 1-2, 4-5}.

As for claim 11, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses receiving payment for the provisionally allocated at least one facility {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 15, lines 15-30}.

As for claim 12, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the allocating at least one facility {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 15, lines 45-60}.

As for claim 13, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the step of updating the centralized inventory system to reflect the provisionally allocated at least one facility {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 13, lines 1-9 and lines 50-67}.

As for claim 14, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose wherein the centralized inventory system is updated in real time {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 13, lines 1-9 and lines 50-67}.

As for claim 15, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose updating the centralized inventory system to reflect the receipt of payment for the provisionally allocated at least one facility {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 13, lines 1-9 and lines 50-67}.

As for claim 16, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the centralized inventory is updated in real time, {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 13, lines 1-9 and lines 50-67; col. 15, lines 2-13}.

As for claims 17-18, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses updating the centralized inventory system in a real time, {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 13, lines 1-9 and lines 50-67; col. 15, lines 2-13}.

As for claims 19-20, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses wherein at least one of the pluralities of channels comprises a global distribution system; a property management system associated with each individual one of the distributed global facilities.
 {see CHRISTIAN ET AL figures 2, 4-6; at least col. 13, lines 50-67; col. 15, lines 45-60}.

As for claim 21, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses wherein at least one of the pluralities of channels comprises a call reservation service {figures 2, 3-5}.

As for claim 22, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses wherein the geographically distributed business entities comprise properties of a hotel chain; see {figures 2, 3-5}

As for claims 23-28, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses a plurality of channels for receiving quote, e.g. travel agents, (or sales, internet, consumers); see PATULLO ET {at least figures 1-2 and 5; pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031}.

As for independent claim 29, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses a hospitality management computer system for providing a reservation service associated with facilities of geographically distributed business entities of a hospitality organization {see figures 2-4} the hospitality management computer system comprising:

a) a processor;

{see at least figures 1-2 and 4; at least col. 2, lines 6-16};

b) a memory means comprising a centralized system comprising a data storage system configured as a single back end repository for storage and retrieval of all booking data associated with the facilities of any of the business entities,

{see at least figures 1-2, 4 and 6; abstract; col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-64; and col. 15, lines 45-55 discloses the *booking* and *rating* information from location level services across multiple properties (business entities and their associated facilities) are stored in *a central database 45* (a single back end repository) over a wide area network};

c) the centralized inventory system comprising computer code adapted for generating a service (e.g. reservation) based on data stored in the data storage system and relating to the facilities of the business entities; and

{see at least figures 1-2, 4 and 7 col. 12, lines 53-67 discloses the central application services that enables a multiple location operator to manage and accept reservations for any property participating in the system; and

col. 13, lines 1-29; and lines 50- 64 discloses the reservation system e.g. "*when the reservation is placed, the central database 45 is immediately updated to provide current property room availability data*};

d) a display screen linked to a single central interface in communication with the centralized inventory system and the business entities and accessible by customer entities and configured for booking at least one of the facilities of at least one of the business entities.

{see at least figures 1-2, 4 and 7; at least col. 10, lines 40-51; discloses central server 40 includes a central database 45 and a variety of central application services 48 (central interface) accessible to users via a thin client user interface on user station 25 (a display screen); col. 13, lines 50-67; col. 14, lines 26-44 discloses the communication between the central application services 48 and the central database by the remote central server 40}

CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the claimed invention above <u>except for</u> the feature generating and transmitting "pricing proposal /quote" to the user during the request (part of step c);

In the similar system and method for making a reservation using a computer system, PATULLO ET AL discloses receiving a price request from a user for a travel reservation, generating the price quote and display/transmitting the price quote to the user {see at least figures 1-2 and 5; pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL to include generating and displaying the price/quote/rate to the user when making a reservation as taught by PATULLO ET AL in order to improve the customer satisfaction by providing the user/customer an opportunity to decide whether the price/rate is suitable for customer before confirming the reservation.

CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the claimed invention above. However, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL does not explicitly discloses an allocation logic module configured for calculation and optimization of rates for reservation proposals using revenue management system rules (part of step b).

In the similar method and system for making a reservation using a computer system, KOWAL ET AL discloses a reservation management system uses the control segment to determine possible room rates that might be offered to the customer based on his control segment {par. 0019, figures 15-16}. A module optimizer 103 generates a price recommendation in response to a resource (e.g. hotel services) request for a particular customer or customer segment {at least pars. 0059, 0061, 0064-0074 figures 1-2B}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL to an optimizer module to generate a price recommendation to the customer in response to customer request as taught by KOWA ET AL in order for the revenue management system maximize the total revenue and optimally allocate resources {see KOWA ET AL pars 0061, 0109, 0112}.

As for claims 30-31, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses wherein the customer entity comprises a customer, a sales entity of the hospitality organization {see figures 5-6; at least col. 15, lines 45-60}.

As for claims 32-33, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the centralized inventory system generating reservation in a real time. See CHRISTIAN ET AL col.13 lines 50-67;

As for claim 34, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses centralized inventory system is further adapted for booking a facility {see figures 2, 6, at least col. 13, lines 1-9).

As for claim 35, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses central interface is adapted for receiving requests for quotes from a plurality of channels {see CHRISTIAN ET AL figures 2, 4 and 7; col.14, lines 45-64; and see PATULLO ET AL, figures 1-2 }.

As for claims 36-37, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses wherein at least a subset of the business entities communicate electronically with the hospitality management system and wherein the central interface is adapted for communicating with the business entities {see CHRISTIAN ET AL figures 2, 4 and 7 col. 13, lines 50-

64; col. 14, lines 45-64 discloses each property management system (PMS)

communicate with the central server 40}

    As for claim 38-39, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses further

comprising a revenue management system in communication with the centralized

inventory system for generating quote in real time {see CHRISTIAN ET AL; see figure 6,

"rate and inventory management"; col. 12, lines 53-67; col. 13, lines 50-64}.

    As for claims 40-44, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses well known

centralized inventory system comprises a processing system for generating price in real

time data; {see CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 12, lines 53-67; col. 13, lines 50-64}.

    As for claims 45-46, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET discloses the business

system in communication with the centralized inventory management system for

booking the facilities upon the customer request e.g. room preferences {see

CHRISTIAN ET AL col. 12, lines 53-67; col. 13, 1-29 and lines 50-64}.

    As for independent claim 47, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses a computer

implemented method for operating a central inventory system for a hospitality

organization having a plurality of geographically distributed business entities, the

method comprising the steps of:

    a) maintaining by the computer a database associated with the central inventory

system, the database configured as a single back end repository of centrally generated

price and availability booking data relating to facilities of the plurality of business

entities;

{see figures at least figures 1-2, 4 and 6-7; abstract; col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-64; and col. 15, lines 45-55 discloses the *booking* and *rating* information from location level services across multiple properties (business entities and their associated facilities) are stored in *a central database 45* (a single back end repository) over a wide area network};

b) receiving a booking request for at least one facility of the plurality of business entities, the request received from a user via a sing e central interface

{see figures 1-2, 4, 6; col. 12, lines, 57-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67; col. 14, lines 45-64 discloses the *interface engine 115, central application services 48* (central interface) *that enables a multiple location operator to manage and accept* (receive) *the reservation*s from the user };

c) retrieving from the database data relating to the facility

{see at least figures 2, 6; col.14, lines 40-52 discloses "a user/reservationists at the all center can access the central server 40 through a browser and *receive current, real time data and room availability with respect to any property*};

(d) generating reservation using a computer based on data residing in the single centralized inventory system (central database) {see figures 2,4-5; col. 13, lines 1-29; and lines 50- 64 discloses the reservation system e.g. "*when the reservation is placed, the central database 45 is immediately updated to provide current property room availability data*};

(e) transmitting reservation information base on receiving a request

{see at least figures 2, 6; col.14, lines 40-52 discloses "a user/reservationists at the all center can access the central server 40 through a browser and *receive current, real time data and room availability with respect to any property*};

f) updating the database by the computer based on receipt the reservation;

{see col. 12, lines 53-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67

CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the claimed invention above <u>except for</u> the feature generating and transmitting and confirming "pricing proposal /quote" to the user during the request (part of steps (d), (e) and (f));

In the similar system and method for making a reservation using a computer system, PATULLO ET AL discloses receiving a price request from a user for a travel reservation, generating the price quote and display/transmitting the price quote to the user and the confirming the reservation after receiving the quote {see at least figures 1-2 and 5; pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL to include generating and displaying the price/quote/rate to the user when making a reservation as taught by PATULLO ET AL in order to improve the customer satisfaction by providing the user/customer an opportunity to decide whether the price/rate is suitable for customer before confirming the reservation.

CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the claimed invention above. However, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL does not explicitly discloses an

allocation logic module configured for calculation and optimization of rates for

reservation proposals using revenue management system rules (part of step b).

In the similar method and system for making a reservation using a computer

system, KOWAL ET AL discloses a reservation management system uses the control

segment to determine possible room rates that might be offered to the customer based

on his control segment {par. 0019, figures 15-16}. A module optimizer 103 generates a

price recommendation in response to a resource (e.g. hotel services) request for a

particular customer or customer segment {at least pars. 0059, 0061, 0064-0074 figures

1-2B}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL to an

optimizer module to generate a price recommendation to the customer in response to

customer request as taught by KOWA ET AL in order for the revenue management

system maximize the total revenue and optimally allocate resources {see KOWA ET AL

pars 0061, 0109, 0112}.

As for claim 48, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses wherein the database is

maintained on a real-time basis {see col. 12 lines 64-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-

67}.

As for claim 49, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses wherein the retrieved data relating

to the facility comprises price/rate setting data {see figures 6-7; col. 13, lines 50-67; col.

15, lines 45-55}.

   As for claim 50, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the price setting data is derived

on the basis of at least one selected from the group consisting of: market analysis

relating to the facility type and characteristics {see figures 6-7; col. 15, lines 45-55 }.

   As for independent claim 60, CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses a computer

implemented method for managing one of a plurality of business entities of a hospitality

organization, the method comprising:

   a) receiving over a network, from an inventory system centralized with respect to

the plurality of business entities, booking data associated with booking of facilities of the

business entity, wherein the centralized inventory system is configured for maintaining a

single back end repository of pricing and booking data relating to the facilities

   {see figures 1-2, 4, 6; col. 12, lines, 57-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and line 50-67; col.

14, lines 45-64 discloses the *interface engine 115, central application services 48 that*

enables a multiple location operator (plurality of business entities) *to manage and*

*accept (*receive) *the reservation*s from the user. *A user at the call center will access the*

call center application 70 to receive real time data, such as room availability from the

central database 45;

   See col. 3, lines 21-39; col. 13, lines 1-9; and line 50-67; col. 15, lines 45-55

discloses the *booking* and *rating* information from location level services across multiple

properties (business entities and their associated facilities) are stored in *a central*

database 45 (a single back end repository) over a wide area network};

   b) using the computer, assigning resources of the business entity based on the

booking data received from the centralized system;

{see figures 2, 4; col. 12, lines 57-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67 discloses *"provides real-time room availability and rate information* (resources) *from the central database 45 on the central server 40*}

c) upon receipt of a booking from a user through a single central interface for at least one facility, retrieving from the inventory system booking data related to the facility;

{see figures 1-2, 4, 6; col. 12, lines, 57-67; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67; col. 14, lines 45-64 discloses the *interface engine 115, central application services 48* (central interface) *that enables a multiple location operator to manage and accept* (receive) *the reservation*s from the user };

{see at least figures 2, 6; col.14, lines 40-52 discloses *"a user/reservationists at the all center can access the central server 40 through a browser and receive current, real time data and room availability with respect to any property*};

d) updating the inventory system by the computer to reflect removal a booked facility from the inventory system

{see figures 2, 4; col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67 discloses *the central database 45 is immediately updated to provide current property room availability when reservation is placed*}.

CHRISTIAN ET AL discloses the claimed invention above except for the feature providing a "pricing proposal /quote" during the booking (part of step c);

In the similar system and method for making a reservation using a computer system, PATULLO ET AL discloses receiving a price request from a user for a travel

reservation, generating the price quote and display/transmitting the price quote to the

user {see at least figures 1-2 and 5; pars. 0022-0023; 0026-0027; 0030-0031}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL to include generating and

displaying the price/quote/rate to the user when making a reservation as taught by

PATULLO ET AL in order to improve the customer satisfaction by providing the

user/customer an opportunity to decide whether the price/rate is suitable for customer

before confirming the reservation.

CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL disclose the claimed invention above.

However, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL does not explicitly discloses an

allocation logic module configured for calculation and optimization of rates for

reservation proposals using revenue management system rules (part of step a).

In the similar method and system for making a reservation using a computer

system, KOWAL ET AL discloses a reservation management system uses the control

segment to determine possible room rates that might be offered to the customer based

on his control segment {par. 0019, figures 15-16}. A module optimizer 103 generates a

price recommendation in response to a resource (e.g. hotel services) request for a

particular customer or customer segment {at least pars. 0059, 0061, 0064-0074 figures

1-2B}.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to provide the teachings of CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL to an

optimizer module to generate a price recommendation to the customer in response to

customer request as taught by KOWA ET AL in order for the revenue management

system maximize the total revenue and optimally allocate resources {see KOWA ET AL

pars 0061, 0109, 0112}.

     As for claims 61-62, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses step of

accessing, over the network from the centralized inventory system, pricing data

associated with the booking of facilities {see CHRISTIAN ET AL figures 2-4, 6, col. 13,

lines 1-9; and lines 50-67 }.

     As for claims 63-64, which deals with the hospitality business entity e.g. a resort

like a hotel or a cruise ship. This is fairly taught in CHRISTIAN ET AL {see col. 3, lines

45-49}.

     As for claim 65, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses the pricing data

received from the centralized inventory system are updated on a continuing basis {see

CHRISTIAN ET AL figures 2-4, 6, col. 13, lines 1-9; and lines 50-67 }.

     As for claim 66, CHRISTIAN ET AL/ PATULLO ET AL discloses wherein the

pricing data reflects pricing that is optimized using a revenue management system {see

CHRISTIAN ET AL, figure 2-4; col. 9, lines 20-29 and claim 16}.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 29, 47, 51, 60 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as indicated above

due to the new amended language " *allocation logic module configured for calculation*

and optimization of rates for reservation proposals using revenue management

business rules".

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy-Vi Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on 571-272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Janice A. Mooneyham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689